



Ohio Attorney General's Office
Bureau of Criminal Investigation
Investigative Report



2025-0559

Officer Involved Critical Incident – [REDACTED] Miami
Township, Ohio (Montgomery Co.) (L)

Investigative Activity: Interview with Witness
Involves: Terry M Bennett (W)
Date of Activity: 02/19/2025
Activity Location: – 9283 Sawgrass Drive, Miamisburg, OH 45342
Author: SA Steven Seitzman

Narrative:

On February 19, 2025, at approximately 1624 hours, Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation Special Agent Steven Seitzman interviewed Terry Bennett regarding the officer-involved critical incident that took place on the same date at [REDACTED]. Ms. Bennett was identified as grandmother of the involved subject, Jayden Cole Stephenson. The interview took place at a neighbor's residence at 9283 Sawgrass Drive.

The details below summarize what the author believed to be the pertinent portions of the recorded interview and are not a verbatim account. Further, this report was placed in a chronology to aid the reader's overall understanding of the information elicited during the interview and may not be reflective of the actual sequencing of questions. It is suggested that the full audio recording be reviewed.

Ms. Bennett has been [REDACTED] due to Jayden's recent mental health deterioration. She informed SA Seitzman that she was a retired law enforcement officer from the Preble County Sheriff's Office.

Ms. Bennett spoke about an incident on or around Monday, February 17, 2025, where Jayden was arrested for domestic violence. She said a Miami Township police supervisor made the decision to arrest Jayden for domestic violence despite another officer entertaining the idea of hospitalization for a mental health evaluation. She said during that incident he was "flailing around." She said he took his shirt off and was flexing. She said he was "real angry" and kept saying, "Look at your face. Your face ain't even there." She said that she could tell he was going to get violent. She remembered him saying, "You call the F-ing cops. I don't care." She said he then pushed by her and Ms. Schindler, and went over to the front door. She said she tried to block him from leaving, at which point he forcefully flung the door open, causing it to hit her. She said the police supervisor showed up and said Jayden would be arrested for domestic violence. She further stated that Jayden's car was impounded due to expired

This document is the property of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and is confidential in nature. Neither the document nor its contents are to be disseminated outside your agency except as provided by law – a statute, an administrative rule, or any rule of procedure.

registration.

Ms. Bennett stated that Jayden was released from jail during the morning on Tuesday, February 18. She said she and Ms. Schindler picked him up on West Third Street in Dayton at a McDonald's. She said he was already "over the top" and thought people were trying to poison his food. She said they were able to get him home. She said he was calm for a brief period of time; however, she said they called the police again that afternoon due to his behavior.

Ms. Bennett stated that after Jayden's arrest, he only had a brief moment where she felt like the "old Jayden" was coming out. She stated that they reminisced about good memories, and Jayden was able to recall some of those. She stated that he eventually felt comfortable enough to eat, where he did not feel like people were poisoning him. She said he ate some food and then went to bed at approximately 2320 hours (the night before the day of the OICI).

Ms. Bennett described the moments leading up to the arrival of the Miami Township police officers on February 19. She stated that Jayden woke up at approximately 1145 hours. She said Jayden had just taken a shower and got dressed. She remembered him getting agitated about his car being impounded. She described him as being "fixated" on getting his car. She further described him as being "very aggressive" toward his mother, Christina Schindler. She said his stepfather, Brett Schindler, left the residence due to his behavior. She recalled that approximately 45 minutes after Brett left, she was able to get Jayden to eat. She said she told him he was not going to get his car unless he went to the hospital. She remembered him saying, "So you really won't?" At that point, he pulled the knife out of his pocket. SA Seitzman asked her if Jayden pointed the knife at her or Ms. Schindler. She answered by saying, "No, he didn't point...he didn't even really point the knife at us." SA Seitzman asked her to show him what Jayden did with the knife. She demonstrated that Jayden held the knife up at shoulder level. She said he paced around the house with the knife in his hand. She recalled that at some point during the incident, she asked Jayden what he was thinking. He answered by saying something to the effect of, "I don't even know anymore." He then asked her if she heard voices in her head. After she answered, she asked him if he heard voices in his head, which he answered by saying, "absolutely not." She opined that he had the knife because he wanted her to know that he had it and that he did not want to go back to jail. She recounted him saying, "I'm telling you, if they [the police] come, it's going to be a problem." She said she was almost able to convince Jayden to give her the knife; however, he saw the arrival of the first officer and "lost it."

Ms. Bennett stated that she spoke with the first officer who arrived and told him not to use deadly force. She said the officer told her to wait by the street. She said she saw the second officer arrive with a shotgun and also told him not to use deadly force. The officer told her it was a beanbag shotgun. She said other officers arrived, and she reiterated not to use deadly force. She then recalled that the officers began yelling at Jayden once they opened the door. She remembered hearing, "Give us the knife!" Show us your hands!" She then went on to say that she heard, "Tap, Tap, [pause] Tap, Tap." She said she heard four shots. She said the shots were fired within five minutes of the officers opening the door. She felt that the officers did not attempt to negotiate with Jayden. She said an officer told her it was less-lethal; however, she was incredulous and said, "Bullshit, I know what a double-tap is. That was lethal."

SA Seitzman asked Ms. Bennett if she ever tried to get Jayden to the hospital without law

enforcement intervention. She said, "We tried. That's why we got law enforcement involved, thinking they would be able to either pink slip him or maybe transport him."

SA Seitzman asked Ms. Bennett if Jayden used any drugs. She answered that he used marijuana and Adderall. She said she thought he was purchasing Adderall from a friend in Preble County or "off the street." She said he told her a couple of weeks ago that he was going to discontinue the use of marijuana.

Ms. Bennett stated that her son, Chad Stephenson, is Jayden's father. She stated that there were a lot of issues with her son. She said he had never been a father to his children.

Ms. Bennett stated that approximately one year ago, she believed Jayden was diagnosed with Bipolar. She said he stayed at Beckett Springs in West Chester for approximately ten days for treatment. She stated that he was prescribed lithium; however, he did not like the way it made him feel, so he stopped taking it.

The interview concluded at 1704 hours. The body-worn camera footage of the interview was labeled and stored on Axon Evidence.com.

Attachments:

No attachments.

References:

Axon Evidence.com